

REMARKS

By this paper, claims 1-49 are amended. No claims are added or cancelled. Accordingly, claims 1-50 are all of the claims currently pending. In light of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks, allowance of all of the pending claims is anticipated.

Examiner Interview

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended to Applicants' representative in the telephonic Examiner Interview of May 17, 2006. As the Examiner acknowledged in the Interview Summary mailed May 23, 2005, during the Interview, the Examiner and Applicants' representative agreed that various aspects of the claimed invention are not present in the cited references. The amendments to the claims presented above and the following remarks are intended to substance of the agreement reached during the Interview.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 19, 20, 46, and 47 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The Examiner objects particularly to claim features including a threshold and/or an affinity value. Applicants traverse this rejection on the grounds that these features are fully enabled by the specification.

For example, on page 1 of the specification, U.S. Patent Application Nos. 10/044,921 and 10/044,922 are incorporated by reference. For the Examiner's convenience, Applicants have provided as **APPENDICES A and B** of this paper, copies of U.S. Patent Application Publication Nos. 2003/0135499 (hereinafter "publication '499") and 2003/1235818 (hereinafter "publication '818"), which correspond to applications 10/044,921 and 10/044,922, respectively. Turning first to publication '818, a system and method for calculating a user affinity is disclosed. This includes disclosure related to determining an affinity value, or score, that represents a user's relationship with a topical category. See, e.g., publication '818, paragraph 12. The affinity value may be determined based on the user's interactions with one or more

documents, or objects. See, e.g., publication '818, paragraph 13. The affinity value may be compared with a threshold to determine whether or not the user has an affinity to the category that corresponds to the affinity value. See, e.g., publication '818, paragraph 17.

Turning to publication '499, a system and method for mining a user's electronic mail messages to determine a user's affinities is disclosed. Publication '499 describes mining electronic mail messages sent to and from the user to determine an affinity value that represents the strength of the user's relationship to a topical category. See, e.g., publication '499, paragraphs 8 and 9. The affinity value may then be compared to a threshold to determine if the user has an affinity to the corresponding topical category. See, e.g., publication '499, paragraph 26.

Based on the disclosures of publications '818 and '499, as well as for the teachings of the instant application, and the other applications incorporated by reference, the rejection of claims 19, 20, 46, and 47 are improper and should be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-50¹ stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0068477 to Gilmour *et al.* (hereinafter "Gilmour"). Applicants traverse these rejections on the grounds that Gilmour does not disclose each and every feature of the claimed invention. However, solely in an effort to expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended the claims to clarify various aspects of the claimed invention.

For example, claim 1 has been amended to recite, *inter alia*, **"wherein the predetermined period of time is set by the user in the affinity publication policy."** As was agreed upon in the telephonic Examiner Interview of May 17, 2006, Gilmour does not disclose at least this feature of the claimed invention. Claims 23 and 33 have been amended to include similar recitations. Claim 50, although independent, includes

¹ Applicants note that in the 3/27/2006 Office Action at page 3, only claims 1-30 are indicated as being rejected. However, in the body of the rejection claims 31-50 are also addressed. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1-50 are addressed here.

the subject matter of claim 1. For at least this reason the rejections of 1, 23, 33, and 50 based on Gilmour should be withdrawn.

Further, claims 2-22, 24-32, and 34-49 depend from corresponding ones of independent claims 1, 23, and 33. Therefore, the rejections of claims 2-22, 24-32, and 34-49 should be withdrawn based on their dependency, as well as for the features that they recite individually.

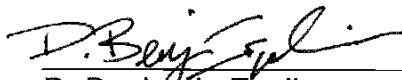
CONCLUSION

Having addressed each of the foregoing rejections, it is respectfully submitted that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action and, as such, the claims are in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

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Respectfully submitted,

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